

TRAIL & Landscape

A PUBLICATION CONCERNED WITH
NATURAL HISTORY AND CONSERVATION



Trail & Landscape

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The Ottawa Field - Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

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Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, devoted to publishing research in natural history; TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a non-technical publication of general interest to local naturalists. THE SHRIKE, a local birding newsletter, is available by separate subscription.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members. See "Coming Events" in this issue.

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Editorial Policy of Trail & Landscape

Our editorial policy aims to support the objectives of the Club, and to keep members in touch with their club, through:

- announcements of coming events, and occasional accounts of past ones
- reports of Council decisions which affect members directly
- reports of important activities of the committees
- reports of developments in land use, or activities of government bodies, which will materially affect naturalists' use of local landscape
- presentation of the interests, opinions, activities of other members, or outsiders, as they relate to natural history in the Ottawa area.

As T&L is a publication for Ottawa naturalists, the focus of our subject matter is natural history, and matters of conservation, in the Ottawa area. "Natural history" as we define it does not include pets or horticulture. The "Ottawa area" for our purposes includes every part of eastern Ontario and western Quebec not currently served by a local natural history club (such as the Kingston, Montreal, or Deep River areas).

* * *

We hope the above statement (prepared for the Publications Committee files) will serve as a guide to potential contributors and perhaps forestall rejection of material due to unsuitability of subject matter or geographical application. These guidelines are not applied in a hard-and-fast way. Editorial discretion will make room for an attractive piece that wanders slightly out of our stated fields (for example, observations made elsewhere, but of flora or fauna which also occur in the Ottawa area). When in doubt about suitability of your idea for a contribution to T&L we suggest that you discuss it with us before spending much writing time. (And if you plan to accompany your prose with photos, would you please have black-and-white glossy prints made?)

... Editors

Memorandum on the Macoun Field Club

W. K. W. Baldwin, M.B.E., M.A.

From time to time societies review and renew what they do. Periodic stock-taking is a healthy exercise. Right now we are looking back over the first hundred years of our Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club (OFNC) and wondering what our future will be. There was a time after the upheavals of the 1939-45 War when renewal was our main concern. In that period a new OFNC activity began - the Macoun Field Club (MFC). Perhaps our Club's centennial is a good time to reflect on the origin of that new enterprise, to consider the ideas that started it, and to see how it developed.

Faithful Ottawa members had kept the OFNC going during the War, but our membership had shrunk, our Canadian Field-Naturalist (CFN) had not reached some subscribers, and we lacked younger members. Our Membership Committee, which was chaired by Dr. V.E.F. Solman, was busy planning a campaign to attract new members. At one of our committee meetings in 1947, I suggested that we launch a project to draw in young naturalists of school age. I cited the experience of the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club in conjunction with members of the staff of the University of Toronto and the Royal Ontario Museum, along with what had happened in other natural history clubs having youth groups. The Membership Committee recommended this venture to Council which, on February 21, 1948, appointed a "Junior Membership Committee" with me as chairman to investigate the possibilities.

Mr. W.H. Lanceley was then President of the OFNC. He encouraged the idea, as did Dr. Pauline Snure who succeeded him. This encouraging spirit has continued through successive presidents, three of whom, through a natural concurrence of interest, were in charge of the MFC before their presidencies.

Following proverbial wisdom our Junior Membership Committee looked before it leaped. We consulted Father F.E. Banim, a former OFNC president who had had success with stimulating the interests of young Ottawa Valley naturalists at St. Patrick's College. We got excellent advice from Miss M.C. Melburn, an outstanding teacher at Hopewell Public School, who guided school

classes through the exhibits at the Victoria Memorial Museum on Thursdays. These were scheduled visits of pupils in the higher grades of all Ottawa Public Schools.

Dr. F.J. Alcock was then Chief Curator of the National Museum of Canada (NMC), a position expanded after his retirement to two, then four, directorships in a Corporation of National Museums. Dr. Alcock supported us enthusiastically during the critical early years of our venture and continued to do so throughout his career. His successor, Dr. L.J. Russell, and successive directors of that institution, likewise encouraged us throughout a period of name-changing and re-organization.

The consensus of advice received by the junior Membership Committee was that we should start small, grow slowly, and never allow the groups to get too big. We were warned of the pitfalls of large groups (especially in the field), of repetition that would bore eager young people, of too much mixing of different ages and growing interests, and of the tendency of adolescents to blow hot and cold in their enthusiasms. Neglect of these warnings had caused many "junior" clubs to founder after promising beginnings. Our programme was therefore designed to fit the interests of the children, starting from that "catching age" of twelve years old, plus or minus a year or so, and going on to high school graduation.



The founding leaders of the Macoun Field Club: Herb Groh (left) and W.K.W. Baldwin (right) with some early members. These photographs were taken in the Club's first "permanent" home, the basement of the Victoria Memorial building, in November 1950.

Two things were imperative: good leaders, and good sponsors. Understanding the role of sponsors is all-important to the founding of a club whose aim is to foster an interest in natural history in young persons. Two "parents" are needed. The one to give leadership, money when needed, and the incentive of future membership in an adult institution. The other to provide a home base, the resources of specialists, and an institution that can help a youth along the way to a life-long pursuit of knowledge. The OFNC and the NMC agreed to become the two "parents" of the new club, and have fulfilled these roles for thirty years. The "parents" have each lived to be a hundred, and so may their "offspring".

The first act of the sponsors was to appoint a joint committee to manage the new club. The chairman (myself) was a member of both parent institutions, and the others were a club member (Mr. Herbert Groh) and a museum staff member (Miss Mabel Godwin). This pattern of management has continued over the years through successive additions and replacements and various modifications and adaptations.

We were extraordinarily fortunate in enlisting the dedicated help of Mr. Groh, a former President of the OFNC, who had just retired from his position as a botanist at the Central Experimental Farm. Mr. Groh had given much time to voluntary work in boys' clubs and summer camps as a leader in natural history. The clue to Mr. Groh's successful technique was "bait". He would display an old broken-down wasps' nest in his special interest tent. Within a few hours a camper would come back with a bigger and better one. Mr. Groh would then help the youngster make a label with his name on it in BIG letters, along with time and place data. The collector would rush out to get his mates to see what he and Mr. Groh had found and done. The old "bait" would be quietly removed and other things added and retired: rocks and minerals, leaves and flowers, butterflies and moths, and all the things of nature that the young pick up instinctively. So the collection would grow and the campers' interests with it.

The sponsors next established a home base for the new club. The first club room was on the ground floor of the Victoria Memorial Museum building, a few steps down the corridor from the rotunda and lecture theatre. The Museum furnished the room properly. Mr. J.W. Van Alstine designed the furnishings and his technical staff made the installations. There were sturdy tables arranged in a horseshoe with space for twenty to sit around the outside on metal chairs that folded easily. There were lots of shelves for exhibits and cupboards for collections, instruments and supplies. Subsequently the club moved to a similar room (same furnishings) in the basement, to a larger room on the third floor (old furnishings plus more), to temporary quarters on Bank Street during renovations to the Victoria Memorial Museum building, and eventually home again to the Museum when it was re-opened as an exhibition building for two of the four

components of the National Museums of Canada (National Museum of Natural Sciences and the National Museum of Man).



We were allergic to the term "junior". So we chose the name Macoun Field Club in memory of Professor John Macoun, famed for his botanical explorations in western Canada before the main settlement occurred, and for his classic publications on the plants of Canada. He was active during the formative years of both of our sponsors. Members of the Macoun family rallied to our support, notably Mrs. Mary Macoun Kennedy and Mrs. Selwyn Wilson. Two great-granddaughters of John Macoun joined the MFC in its early days: Edith Kennedy and Norah Fortune.

Prof. John Macoun
and a young friend

We were now equipped and had a base for operating. The first MFC meeting was held on Saturday, May 8, 1948. Three prospective members attended: Eric Mills, Cynthia Millman and Earle Covert. We should note here that the three originals grew up to make their marks in marine biology, in music, and in medicine. Later members followed them with distinction in all kinds of careers, much to the pride and pleasure of Mr. Groh, who faithfully kept records of their progress through life in a unique system of looseleaf notebooks.

Recruits came in quickly. Some were enlisted by the founding committee and some by the first "joiners". News of the MFC spread through membership of the OFNC, the staffs of the NMC and of the Geological Survey of Canada (who at this time worked in the same building), and generally throughout the scientific community of Ottawa. Thus many Macouners were encouraged to join by parents who belonged to these various institutions.

By the time of our first birthday party in May, 1949, we had twenty youngsters who had qualified for membership by faithful attendance and activity, as well as a waiting list of more who wanted to join. It was an early principle that MFC members earned their own place; they did not get it for a fee paid by their parents. It was salutary to have a waiting list. Those seated at our twenty places realized that they were lucky to be

there. If they did not want to take part, they knew that there was someone else waiting to get in. True interest was the key to membership. There was no false pressure. If other interests claimed their time and energy, they could leave with a feeling of accomplishment, not failure. Often we discovered that "drop-outs" rekindled their interests in nature later on in their lives.

At the party, badges were presented by Mrs. Kennedy to each of the twenty original members as marks of full membership. The badges were a monogram of M, F and C with a bear cub climbing up the backs of the letters. They were designed by Miss Margaret Watson, who worked with Miss Godwin in the Museum office. The colour of the badge has changed from year to year but the design has persisted.

In our second year, we divided the membership into two groups: those who had earned their badges, and the beginners. Two groups fitted well with the Museum's long-standing Saturday Morning Programme, which had two performances in the theatre to accommodate the hundreds of Ottawa children who flocked to this series. Our beginners group went to the Museum show for an hour and then came to the MFC; the second group held their MFC meeting first and then attended the Museum programme.

Next year we continued with the two Saturday groups and added a third for the older members, who were now in high school. These "seniors" met after school on Fridays. With some modifications, this structuring has continued to the present day.



The Macoun Field Club was started in the fine Spring of 1948. Spring is a good time of year to foster the instincts for observation and exploration that all children possess, although some of them dull this sense and urge in the growing-up stages. It was easy to go on field trips when the winter museum programme ended. At first, we simply rendezvoused in the MFC room and walked out the Museum's back door. Our first stop was the Purple Martin colonies in the nesting houses on the Museum grounds. These were started years ago by Mr. P.A. Taverner, the Museum's well-known ornithologist. Our next stop was the bank of the Rideau Canal where we watched a family of muskrats swimming. Then we continued along the driveway for trees and more birds in the shrubbery, and across the Pretoria Bridge and along the railway tracks to see weeds (Mr. Groh's specialty). At other times we went by streetcar to the Rideau River at the end of Bank Street. Likewise, in the Fall, we went fossil hunting on the exposure at the Ottawa River near the rowing club.

Next year we extended farther afield; east to Rockcliffe Park, and west to Britannia, all by streetcar. Mrs. Wilson invited us to her summer place in the Gattineau and fed us. Mrs. Frank Ryan asked us to come to Kilreen Farm in winter, where we saw excellent animal tracks in the snow. For both these trips we chartered a bus. Kind Mr. Fred Bourguignon of the OFNC not only invited some of the senior Macouners to see his home bird collection, but also gave us money to hire buses to take the whole MFC out to the Gattineau Hills.

Later on, the OFNC granted money for such charter trips, and parents also helped finance them. The OFNC also awarded scholarships to outstanding MFC members to attend the Federation of Ontario Naturalists' Summer Nature School. And so, on it went, to reach a peak under Dr. I.M. Brodo's leadership, when he and his wife (herself a specialist in insects) took Macouners on overnight camping trips in 1968, and summer canoe trips in 1970. Thus, starting with modest Spring walks, the MFC grew up with its young members to Fall and Winter excursions, and eventually Summertime explorations.

Originally, we had aimed at having one leader for every four youngsters. This was sometimes hard to arrange. Members of the senior MFC group helped lead the beginners and intermediates. We also received some much appreciated help from members of the OFNC and of the staff of the Museum.

After the first field trips, the Senior Group was encouraged to focus on a project area and to report on what they saw and found on repeated visits. The first such study area was along the south shore of the Rideau River, west of the Dunbar Bridge, including a few neglected fields and bush, towards the railway tracks and what is now Vincent Massey Park. The growth of Ottawa soon prompted us to go farther away, to the Ottawa River at the Champlain Bridge, including Bate Island and the woods and open country on the Quebec and Ontario approaches to the bridges.

In later years increasing traffic and the development of the Ottawa River Parkway made it wise to choose a more remote area southwest of Bells Corners. Here, under Irwin Brodo's leadership, more sophisticated studies were made by a keen band of youngsters. These have been reported in both *The Little Bear* and *Trail & Landscape*.

Our indoors programme soon took shape. Members would report what they had seen since the last meeting ("observations" mixed with a little story-telling), show what they had collected ("specimens" that continued to amaze leaders on what children would stuff into their pockets), and to work on exhibits and reports. We became much indebted to Mr. Earl Godfrey, who answered countless questions about birds, with patience and good humour; and to many other specialists. For example, a beginner would find a trilobite tail on summer holidays and so, after our meeting, we would trot off to see the wonderful Dr. Alice Wilson in a nearby room of the Geological Survey. She would identify the find and then show us the head of it in a complete specimen. The Senior Group liked to hear talks from specialists. These were better than bothering research people in their labs and offices.

The activities of the MFC members extended beyond meetings in their own club room. They invited sponsors, parents and friends to their Spring birthday parties, originally in the lecture theatre of the Victoria Memorial Museum, to hear about what they had been doing, see their exhibits and to eat an appropriately-decorated birthday cake. Likewise they reported and exhibited at the annual dinner of the OFNC. Many times adults remarked on the ability of the Macouners to get up on their feet and tell what was going on in their club. These are skills that they first learned at their own weekly meetings.

Local radio stations became interested in what was happening. The youngsters' first broadcasts were with Mrs. Frank Ryan at CFRA and Miss Maud Ferguson at CBO. The smaller speakers had to be lifted up to the old-fashioned microphones. One Macouner fiercely chided an announcer who was so "clueless" as to think that the Winter Wren was so named because it came here in winter time!

A squad of older Macouners did the ushering at the Audubon Screen Tours which were a money-raising venture of the OFNC at that period. Macouners made their first TV appearance when Dr. Bousfield was directing the MFC. When children are absorbed in what they are doing (like netting creatures in a pond), they lose their shyness and make excellent and natural performers before the camera. One of our most treasured exhibits, long hung in the club room, is an old photograph of the bearded John Macoun examining a bird's nest brought by a bare-legged lad.

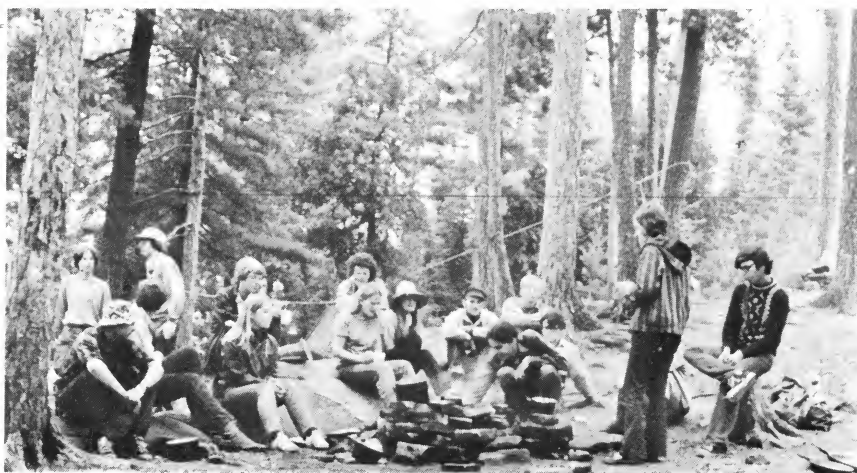
Within the first year of the MFC the members felt the need for organizing themselves, and elected a president, a secretary

and other officers. With adult help the executives soon learned how to run their meetings and to embark on all sorts of undertakings. This pattern has persisted in all groups through the years. The Museum office helped greatly with the paper work of club lists and records. Miss V. Humphreys was one of those who helped, not only in the office, but also in the field where her bird watching skill was valuable.

The leaders learned much in the early days of the MFC. Never underestimate what a twelve-year-old can do but be prepared for mistakes (a privilege of youthful enthusiasm) and for the trial and error needed to grow in experience. We soon began to realize the value of stimulation provided at home by good parents. We answered many questions about books and other things suitable for Christmas presents.

Informal learning is just as essential as schooling and educational programmes. Schools provide essential formal learning but the children did not want that kind of teaching on Saturdays. One of the original members remarked: "If this was like school, I wouldn't be here!" However, the club, we discovered, helped children with school problems - both those who were so bright that ordinary school activities bored them, and those having difficulties in reading and understanding. The latter found that they could do "their own thing" at their own pace with no feelings of frustration or failure.

We found that the MFC provided a focus, particularly for the older members, where they could make new friends having interests that they might not find in their own neighbourhood or school. Companionship is important at that stage of the pursuit of natural history. The youngsters were encouraged to explore solo, in pairs and in whatever number would fit into cars driven by helpful parents.



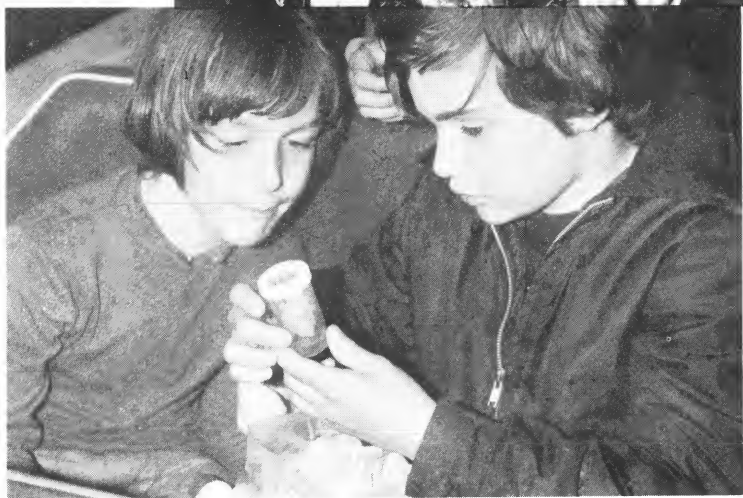
Breakfast on the first canoe trip, Algonquin Provincial Park

There is nothing like a good book to help a person grow. Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds was tops when we were starting. We soon began a library which grew with the years. Its best growth came when the very helpful Mr. M.J. Shchepanek took it in hand. We had welcome gifts of books from Mr. Archie Newman, a former Ottawa alderman and a member of the generous Rideau Kiwanis Club, which made substantial donations, as did Mr. Edward Greenwood, and other OFNC members.

Soon after the MFC began we were joined by Mr. D.C. Maddox, a retired geologist. It was he who started a club journal called *Ursa Minor - The Little Bear*, in the Spring of 1951, to report on the doings of the MFC. The front cover, designed by Mr. Ingram of the Museum staff, displayed the familiar MFC badge monogram together with an Indian legend (provided by Dr. Peter Millman) of the lost hunters who became the stars of the constellation. Mr. Groh carried on editing *The Little Bear* after Mr. Maddox' death in 1960. Arnet Sheppard helped Mr. Groh edit his last issue in 1967. It should be noted that Mr. Sheppard is now (1978) the editor of "Nature Canada", the fine publication of the Canadian Nature Federation. From 1968 onwards *The Little Bear* was edited by MFC members. In 1971 an issue dedicated to the memory of Herbert Groh was produced. Our magazine reached a peak in the issue edited by Jonathan Field when the MFC celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1973. At first, the magazine was issued in the Spring and Fall, but it was not always easy to draw contributions from members as essay writing is not a favourite school-age sport. Later on, there was just one issue a year at the time of the birthday party, and the quality improved. From time to time, separate newsletters were sent to members.

It is fascinating to browse through the whole set of *The Little Bear* (the library of the National Museums of Canada has a complete set). There are recorded the names of the members and their executives as they quickly grew up. There are Mr. Groh's reports on the maturing of former members, taken from his loose-leaf record books. The gamut of interests is amazing, everything from microscopic life to outer space. The spectrum of the members' interests is reflected in short articles, pictures and their pleasure in crossword puzzles. *The Little Bear* was careful to say "Thank you" to its various benefactors. From the list of people thanked (for example, for giving talks), one can get a good idea of the great number of different persons who helped the programme over the years.

The MFC doings were duly reported in *Trail & Landscape*, notably in "A History of the Macoun Field Club" by H.L. Dickson in 1973. The first scientific publication by a member of the MFC was a bird note by W. John Smith in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* of 1950. A stalwart early member, Dr. Smith went on to an academic career and to important publications on research into bird behaviour.



The first five years of the MFC were experimental. We wanted to find out if our original ideas would work, and how they could be adapted to our circumstances. At the end of that period both sponsors agreed to carry on indefinitely. Dr. Loris Russell, who succeeded Dr. Alcock as Director of the NMC, was equally as keen as his predecessor on continuing the MFC. Dr. Russell also saw the operation from the point of view of President of the OFNC. Both Dr. Alcock and Dr. Russell were active in the formation of the Canadian Museums Association (another postwar establishment).

We soon found our MFC idea reaching out from Ottawa. The typical mobility of Ottawa people scattered some of our MFC members' families to widespread postings. We got a letter from one small provincial museum asking for information because a young visitor had expected them to have such a club for him to join. I gave a talk on our activities to the American Museums Association. Miss Godwin wrote an article for a UNESCO publication. Later we learned that the Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, had successfully mounted a children's programme under the direction of Mr. W.J. Lamoureux, Conservationist and Co-ordinator of Education. The programme had similarities to the MFC. It was interesting to see their room in their interpretive centre and their nature study areas. We co-operated with them in a children's exhibit at the founding meeting of the Canadian Nature Federation.

It is one thing to get an enterprise like the MFC started. It is quite another thing, and much more difficult, to keep it going. To provide leadership requires much time and energy and some not too common skills. The length of time a person can give to the MFC varies, depending on personal and family commitments, as well as the demands of a career. Mr. Groh surpassed all others in longevity with twenty years of service. The next longest spell of continuous assistance to the club was probably the eight years served by Mr. Shchepanek. There were many others who helped for shorter spells, some of them at critical times in the development of the MFC, when help was badly needed.

I may properly conclude by naming the successive chairmen of the Club, each of whom contributed their talents to the cause of developing youthful interests in natural history. Dr. E.L. Bousfield took over the chairmanship from me after the first five years. As a zoologist, he strengthened the club's interest in animals, particularly the life of ponds and streams. Mr. Sherman Bleakney carried on for a short time before he left the Museum for academic work. He added interest to the youngsters' pursuit of frogs, snakes and their kindred. Dr. H.J. Scoggan took the next, longer, spell of leadership. Again the flora was to the fore, but snakes, in which the Scoggan children took a keen interest, were not forgotten. Our system of records was much improved at this time. Our next leader was Mr. Francis Cook, who was the first former member of the MFC to join the staff of the Museum.



25th Birthday cake

Work on the Nature Trail



He was also the first to become chairman of the club which he had joined when he was a lad. One of the happy results of the MFC experience is the number of members who have grown up to become leaders, notably Pierre Taschereau at summer camps and later at the Nova Scotia Provincial Museum.

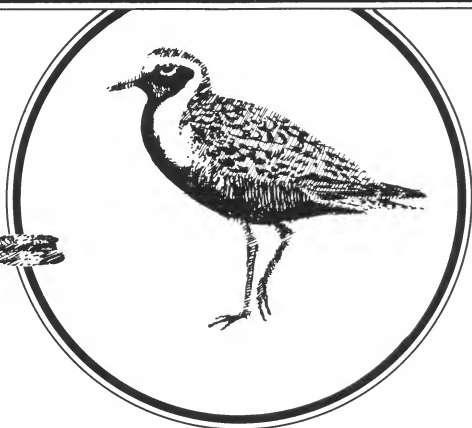
Dr. A.H. Clarke Jr. followed for a short spell (notable for increased interest in shells) with the help of Messrs. A.A. Ellis and Gaston Tessier of the Museum staff. Mr. Ellis succeeded Dr. Clarke. When Mr. Ellis died prematurely, Mr. S.D. MacDonald undertook the leadership with the help of Mr. Shchepanek. Mr. MacDonald had already helped the club in various ways. Next followed the regime of Dr. I.M. Brodo, who led the MFC for five years and contributed about eight years in all to MFC interests. This was a very fruitful period, a time of expanding interests, particularly in the Senior Group who undertook such ventures as symposia on Continental Drift (1968-69) and Pollution (1970). Big subjects have never daunted enterprising youths. At this time, Dr. David Gray, an expert in animal behaviour with the Museum, took over Dr. Brodo's activities as advisor to the Senior Group. He still serves in this role. Dr. Brodo was succeeded by Mr. J.A. Fournier, a member of the Museum staff who had helped the MFC in many ways.

The 25th anniversary of the MFC in 1973 was celebrated in great style under the direction of Dr. Erich Haber despite the difficult situation created by the renovation of the Victoria Memorial Museum building. The MFC was then using temporary quarters on Bank Street, so the celebration was held at the National Museum of Science and Technology on St. Laurent Boulevard. While under the leadership of Mr. Len Marhue, the MFC happily returned home to much improved quarters in the old building. The current leadership of the club is provided by Gerry Fitzgerald of the Palaeontology Division of the Museum. He is ably assisted by Arnet Sheppard who was mentioned earlier.

The MFC still carries on what was begun thirty years ago. The OFNC has indeed fostered young people's interest in natural history and in return has gained as members Macouners who have grown up to enter all walks of life. The National Museums have disseminated valuable knowledge and have seen some of the Macouners go on to careers in science. As Dr. Alcock said at the club's founding, if we can get just a few naturalists like John Macoun from this club, the Museum's effort will be worth while.

We can end by saluting all those who took part in the Macoun Field Club story. We can say "Good Luck" to all who are now active. And we can project best wishes for the future.

Birds of March to May 1978



Stephen Gawn

Much of March was fairly pleasant, but spring was slow in coming. April was cooler than normal, except for a warmer period in the third week, after which it turned very cold. May was mostly sunny and warm with a few hot days.

This spring two birding events took place: the Baillie Birdathon of May 7 which raised almost a thousand dollars with several parties turning in lists of around 100 species; and the spring count of May 28 during which 26,188 birds of 179 species were recorded.

Some of the rarer spring birds were a Red-throated Loon, two Whistling Swans, three Yellow Rails, a Golden Plover, a Yellow-breasted Chat, Prairie, Connecticut, Yellow-throated and Cerulean Warblers, and four Henslow's Sparrows.

The populations of Winter Wrens, Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets have shown no increase from the devastated numbers of last year. Fewer Yellow Rails and Mockingbirds were reported than in recent years.

Loons to Herons: The Red-throated Loon first appeared in late May and was still here at the time of writing in mid-June. It was an average spring for Double-crested Cormorants but a pair did take up residence below the Deschenes rapids. As usual Great Blue and Green Heron and American Bittern were the most common herons but there were a few records of Black-crowned Night Herons and Least Bitterns.

Swans and Geese: An adult and an immature Whistling Swan showed up on the spring count and at the time of writing are still at Ottawa Beach. It was not a spectacular migration for Canada Geese or Brant, but Snow Geese came through in record numbers with flocks of up to 54.

Raptors: The hawk migration passed through routinely. There was a total of ten Turkey Vultures. Two Bald Eagles were seen and there was the usual handful of Peregrine Falcon and Merlin reports.

Rails: The high water level in Richmond Swamp this year could be the reason why the only Yellow Rails recorded there were the two heard on May 22. The only other Yellow Rail was sighted flying across Anderson Road on May 20.

Shorebirds and Gulls: A Golden Plover seen on May 7 was one of the few, if not the only, spring record for this bird. Four Red Knots were seen on May 25 in the east end. It was a good year for White-rumped Sandpipers with up to eight seen per day. Wilson's Phalaropes are continuing to increase with at least 13 seen this spring. Late "white-winged" gulls included a Glaucous on May 6 and an Iceland on April 16.

Owls: The Long-eared Owl now seems to be an uncommon breeder - a far cry from several years ago when it was indeed a rare bird. In early March a Boreal Owl obligingly remained near Meach Lake for many observers to see. There were several sightings of Short-eared Owls with the most recent on the spring count.

Woodpeckers: A Northern Three-toed Woodpecker lingered until May 20. The Red-bellied Woodpecker near Wakefield was recorded as late as March 5. As usual there were a few Red-headed Woodpecker sightings.

Flycatchers and Shrikes: The two rarer flycatchers, Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied, were seen in low numbers. Willow Flycatchers formerly considered a form of Traill's, have a firm foothold in the Ottawa area with at least 15 (calling fitz-bew) in late May. Migrant Loggerhead Shrikes were seen in low numbers with a few remaining to breed.

Vireos and Warblers: Several Yellow-throated Vireos were seen. Warbler migration was stop-and-go. Most of the regular warblers were well represented, and there were a couple of records of the uncommon Orange-crowned Warbler. For the rarer warblers, the place to be was Vincent Massey Park on May 13 when a Prairie, Cerulean and Yellow-throated Warbler all put in an appearance. The other rare warblers were the Yellow-breasted Chat (May 20) and Connecticut (May 28), both heard in the Richmond Swamp, and a second Cerulean on May 17 at Britannia.

Sparrows: The Henslow's Sparrows on Anderson Road form one of the few colonies found within the last few years.

The spring of '78 was unspectacular with respect to rarities. However, it did give Ottawa birders the chance to wonder at the marvels and intricacies of bird migration.

A Review of Hunting Restrictions in the Ottawa Hull Area and Agencies Responsible for their Enforcement

by Brian Morin

In the next few weeks, duck hunting will be opening up for another season, and the perennial problem of coping with those who break the law will arise once again. There are an adequate number of controls to deal with such concerns as bag limits, types of firearms that can be used and when and where one can hunt, but enforcement of these laws is a difficult task, given the low ratio of enforcement personnel to hunters and the large areas that must be patrolled. Consequently, private citizens can play an important role by familiarizing themselves with the local hunting regulations, and by reporting breaches of regulations to the proper authorities.

This is not so much a case of attempting to act the policeman, but rather of showing genuine concern for the welfare of the wildlife, and in some cases, people as well. Unfortunately, most people don't know which agency to contact, or if they do, what telephone number to call, particularly on a weekend. Also, many are unsure of the detailed restrictions imposed by the various local governments.

Following is a review of hunting restrictions in the Ottawa area, and a list of federal and provincial agencies and police departments which have the mandate to enforce hunting regulations (although not all of them do so to the same extent) and/or investigate breaches of the local bylaws through which duck hunting restrictions are imposed. These agencies would also enforce regulations for other types of hunting unless otherwise indicated.

HUNTING RESTRICTIONS IN THE OTTAWA AREA

West Carleton Township "No person shall discharge a firearm in Torbolton Ward of West Carleton Twp. at Dunrobin Shore, Baskin's Beach, Horseshoe Bay, Constance Bay, Bucham's Bay East and Bucham's Bay West, Crown Point or MacLaren's Landing."

March Township "No person shall discharge a firearm except a landowner on his own land, or a guest of a landowner when personally accompanied by the landowner or authorized in writing by the landowner."

Goulbourn Township "No person shall discharge a firearm in the following areas: Richmond, Munster (including the sewage lagoons near these towns), Ashton, Stittsville, Fringewood Trailer Park, the mobile home area south of Highway 7 and 15, Glen Cairn, Hazeldean and Ashton Station."

Rideau Township "No person shall have a loaded firearm within 1500 feet of any public buildings or lands covered by a registered plan of subdivision (generally villages, towns, etc.). No discharge of firearms is permitted in the township dump, Long Island or Nicholl's Island."

Nepean Township "No person shall discharge a firearm within Nepean Township, except for the southwest portion of the township enclosed by Fallowfield, Jockvale and Greenbank Roads."

Gloucester Township "No person shall discharge a firearm in Orleans, Manotick, Blackburn Hamlet or any area north of the Leitrim and Pine sideroads or any area covered by a plan of subdivision."

Osgoode Township "No person shall discharge a firearm on any part of the Rideau River (within the territorial limits of Osgoode Township); on any opened road allowance; or any public lands within the Township (including parks, conservation areas, schoolyards, recreation grounds and the Township Dump); or within 1500 feet of any place of worship, public hall, or lands covered by a registered plan of subdivision."

City of Ottawa "No discharge of firearms is permitted."

Unfortunately, similar information for local municipalities in Quebec could not be obtained. However, obvious restrictions would apply to the use of firearms in cities, towns and populated areas, as well as in Gatineau Park. Starting this year, an Aylmer Bylaw restricts hunting within an area that is 100 feet from shore on rivers less than a mile wide, and halfway across those wider than a mile. That effectively renders the hunt extinct along the entire 7-mile stretch of the Ottawa River within Aylmer's boundary.

ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES 822-2525 District Office, Ramsayville. MNR has 4 or 5 conservation officers, with about half available on weekends. They may be very busy and generally cannot be reached after 5 p.m., so it is advisable to contact the appropriate police department after this time.

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE 998-4693 Eastern Region, 2721 Highway 33. CWS can be reached only during regular government working hours. Four field men act as liaison between RCMP and MNR.

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE 828-9171 Moodie Drive.
OPP should be contacted only in an emergency situation.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE 996-3331
RCMP can be reached only during normal government working hours.
There are two officers in this area empowered to enforce the
Migratory Bird Regulations, but most calls would be referred to
MNR.

NEPEAN POLICE 829-2211 can be reached at any time, but would
normally refer requests for assistance to MNR. They should be
contacted to report the use of firearms in restricted areas.

GLOUCESTER POLICE 822-2916 can be contacted at any time, but
would normally refer requests for assistance to MNR. They, too,
can be contacted should firearms be discharged in restricted
areas.

NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION (Ottawa) Do not call! If anyone is
encountered hunting on NCC Greenbelt lands, which are all res-
tricted, contact either MNR or the appropriate police department.

NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION (Gatineau Park) 827-2711 weekdays;
998-8796 weekends. There are 14 park wardens, 9 or 10 of whom
are on duty at any one time. Hunting is not permitted in
Gatineau Park.

QUEBEC DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, FISH AND GAME 771-5857 or ask the
operator for ZENITH 60270 13 Buteau, Hull. There are 5 conser-
vation officers in this district, with 3 or 4 on duty at any one
time. Like MNR, they may be very busy and unable to respond
directly.

QUEBEC PROVINCIAL POLICE 770-9111 15 Taschereau, Hull.
Although the QPP has the mandate to enforce hunting regulations,
calls are usually referred to the Fish and Game Department.

OTHER LOCAL QUEBEC POLICE FORCES

These do not enforce hunting regulations, but will enforce by-
laws regarding the restriction of hunting within their area of
responsibility.

AYLMER POLICE 684-5311
HULL POLICE 777-1661
POINT GATINEAU POLICE 568-0266

As a general rule of thumb, the Ontario Ministry of Natural
Resources or the Quebec Department of Tourism, Fish and Game
should be contacted before attempting to reach any of the other
agencies listed, unless someone is observed hunting in a restric-
ted area. Then, the appropriate police department should be
notified.

Text and drawing by Marc Forget

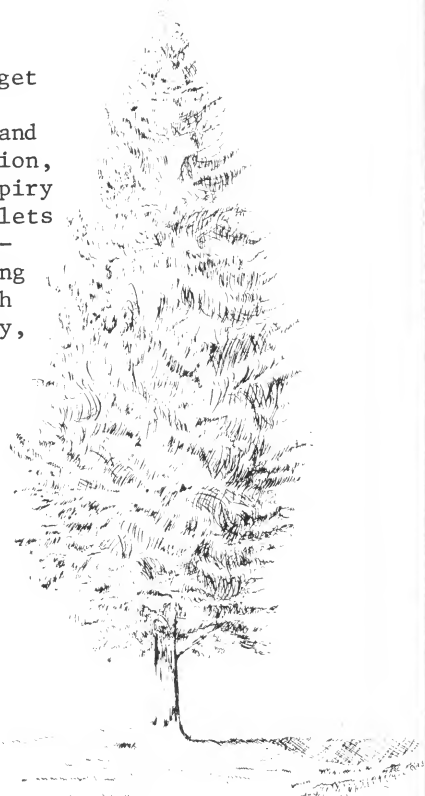
If you were walking through wetlands and came upon a tree of the following description, what species would you have before you? Spiry aromatic evergreen, 6 to 10 m high; branchlets very flat, the tiny scale-like leaves overlapping in 4 rows; some branches terminating in small nodding ovoid cones, and some with minute staminate inflorescences. Obviously, you would have encountered eastern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis* L.), also called Arbor-Vitae, the Tree of Life.

Numerous articles have been written on the medicinal uses of this tree. Many mention its use in treating scurvy, gout, fevers and rheumatism. The latter plagued the natives living in their damp woodlands, and scurvy was the horror of early white explorers.

Every Canadian is familiar with the hardship endured by Jacques Cartier and his crew while wintering on the St. Lawrence in 1535-36. Scurvy almost finished off the entire crew. However, as Cartier wrote to Francis I, King of France, a Huron-Iroquois medicine man gave his men a decoction of familiar scent, and all miraculously recovered from their stupor, gout and scorbutus. Equally familiar is the fact that Clusius of Fontainebleau, a courtier of Francis I, gave the name Arbor Vitae to *Thuja*. Ironically, the explorers who introduced the Tree of Life into France and Europe failed to learn its antiscorbutic use, and scurvy continued to threaten every explorer's life. In time, the British Navy discovered that citrus fruit was very antiscorbutic, and cedar lost its scurvy-treating place in medicine.

The natives, who displayed admirable ingenuity, made ointments of cedar leaves with bear's fat for treating coughs and rheumatism due to colds. During the course of time, the colonial laity learned to use the ointment for soothing relief from these discomforts. In 1978, North Americans buy plastic jars of similar compounds under brand names such as "Vick's Vapo-rub". Take a look at the label: "contains 4% oil of cedar leaf". The camphor-like compound responsible for the soothing effect is called sabinol (4 10 -Thujen-3-ol) or ericinol.

Today, *Thuja* has three major uses: as fenceposts, oil of cedar for ointments and as an ornamental.



Position Vacant

Assistant to the Treasurer , OFNC

The position of Assistant to the Treasurer of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists" Club will become vacant on January 1, 1979. The duties include the picking up and distribution of mail from the OFNC post office box, the maintenance of a cash book and ledger cards for members and subscribers to club publications, making bank deposits, issuing of receipts for incoming monies and advising the appropriate people of payment of fees, addresses, etc.

Typing and organizational ability are essential requirements and a knowledge of accounting procedures and access to a car are desirable. It is difficult to say how many hours of work are involved per month (possibly 50 or 60) because the winter months tend to be much busier than the summer months. At present the work is performed under contract at the rate of \$150 per month and it is anticipated that the successful applicant will work under a similar arrangement.

Applications should be sent to the Chairman of the Finance Committee, OFNC, Box 3264, Station C, Ottawa K1Y 4J5 before October 1, 1978. Details of experience, at least one reference, home address and telephone number should be included.

Typists — we need you



It almost happened: writers and editors worked hard to have the mock-up for this issue ready in time for final typing of camera-ready copy - and every typist we know seemed to be away! We'd feel much safer if there were a pool of volunteers willing to pitch in when our regulars are unavailable. If you can operate an IBM Selectric, and would like to help us with an occasional evening's work, please call Dorothy Greene at 722-3421 (day), 829-9831 (ev'g.); or Marc Forget at 232-2773 (ev'g.).

Conservation Lands Study (Part 3)

While working on the Conservation Lands Study, the members of the Conservation Committee have been impressed anew with the excellent selection of environmentally significant areas which the Regional Municipality has designated "conservation" in its Official Plan of 1974. The lands include all the environmentally unique areas we are aware of, and the better examples of many habitat types in the Region. There are unique wetlands of several different kinds, a unique physiographic region of stabilized sand, an alvar, river-valley plant communities and associated waterfowl and fish-spawning areas, abandoned ancient river channels of both the Rideau and Ottawa Rivers, and various areas of exceptional ecological diversity.

The goals of the Region's Study are to decide whether all these natural areas should be retained, and, for the areas to be retained, to establish boundaries and land use management plans. The Region's Planning Committee, which is composed of the politicians who will make the final recommendations on lands to be designated "conservation", held a series of public meetings in June to hear what interested citizens had to say about this matter.

On June 26, at the public meeting for special interest groups, we presented the Club's position on the Study, expressing support for the conservation lands designated in the Official Plan and outlining our disagreements with some of the Study's recommendations. (See Parts 1 and 2 in the last two T&L's. Preparation of our briefs took more than 400 man-hours.) Until that evening, the politicians had heard only from irate landowners who see the conservation designation on their lands as a threat to their property rights. Many of the politicians themselves are not sympathetic with the concept of conservation and seem interested only in getting the task over with. The decisions they make now will have an effect on the survival and use of the natural areas in Ottawa-Carleton for many decades to come. This was the time for us to try to make sure the right decisions are made, but the picture does not look promising.

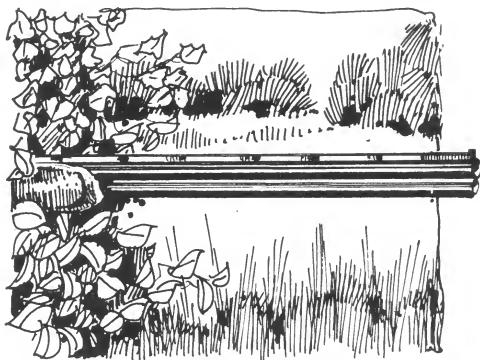
At the meeting, one politician asked representatives of the National and Provincial Parks Association and of the Canadian Nature Federation where all the people were who support the conservation designation. If I had been asked that question, I would have replied that I knew that at least some OFNC members had been to the public meetings. Instead of speaking up to support conservation of these lands, they had sat there like mice and then, afterwards, had phoned Roger Foxall or me to complain that the OFNC was not maintaining a high profile!

The impact which the OFNC has on an issue is only as great as the involvement of its individual members. All members have the responsibility of keeping themselves informed and speaking up in support of the objectives of the Club - conservation, in this case. Otherwise, the politicians will hear only the protests of those who have objections to the conservation program. Numbers count in this game, and silence is often interpreted as agreement with the "noisy minority". If all 800 local OFNC members had shown up at these meetings to support the retention of these conservation lands, the whole situation would have been put in its proper perspective. Where were you?



On the subject of irate landowners, a couple of us have been threatened with shotguns if we ever trespass on certain private properties. This attitude reflects the general feeling of many landowners whose lands have been designated "conservation". These landowners have misinterpreted the OFNC role in designating lands for conservation and blame us for their problems. So, for your own health and for the Club's reputation, stay off private land whether it is posted or not.

It is important for you to understand that the conservations lands shown on the map on pages 74-75 of the last issue are not "Conservation Areas" like those set up by the Conservation Authorities of Ontario. The designation is for purposes of land use management and includes a great deal of private land. This land is not for public use.



The public lands which you can use at present are the following: Baxter Conservation Area, Fitzroy Provincial Park, Rideau River Provincial Park, West Carleton Forest, parts of the Regional Forest (see next page), Britannia Woods, and, in the Greenbelt, the western section of Mer Bleue, the abandoned New York Central Railroad line, Green's Creek, Pine Grove, Pinhey Forest, Stony Swamp, and Upper and Lower Duck Islands.

The field trips made by the members of the Conservation Committee in Ottawa-Carleton will continue to be confined to these publicly-owned areas - yours should be too.



The area known as the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Forest is a mosaic of private and public land. This boundary marker identifies clearly the boundary between the two. Go to the latter to enjoy the diversity of old fields, woods, creeks, and unique wetlands. The Forest has over 60 species of plants which are rare in Ottawa-Carleton. It is the home of several rare butterflies, the rare mink frog, and some rare birds, like yellow rail. An ideal way to survey the area is to follow the Rideau Trail. (See T&L 11, 6 (1977)).

Colonel By's Forgotten Forest



Charles Billington

To the people of the lower Rideau Valley, the land looks much the same from day-to-day with its neat farmlands, scattered woodlots, fencerows and the placid meanderings of the river itself. But the valley has not always been as we see it today. At the time of the canal construction (1826-1832), Colonel By and his crews saw virtually no man-made clearings between Kingston and Ottawa. Instead, they encountered massive, continuous forest cover, sometimes of the most impenetrable variety.

the forest came to the water's edge and there was yet no settlement there. Above Black Rapids, lay the Long Island stillwater where the uninhabited banks were high and woody. Long Island had rapids along its full length of about four miles, with a fall of about twenty-four feet...the country was still untouched forest (1).

The uplands were "timbered with Maple, Beech, Birch, Elm and Butternut with an edging of Cedar and Pine always covering the Banks of the River" (2). "The future Capital was largely a cedar swamp with hemlock and pine-topped ridges of rock outcropping here and there," (3), "while the low ground...was covered with dense growths of tamarack and cedar" (4).

That is what the old records tell us of the nature of those virgin forests. We recently had a chance to actually see something of those forests with our own eyes during reconstruction of the control dam at Long Island near Manotick. The east channel of the river was drained in the fall of 1977 to facilitate the renovations. Looking upstream from the drained locks, it was easy to pick out the original Rideau River channel, a narrow and meandering stream (about 35 m on the average) cutting through

a broad floodplain of clay and silt. Projecting from the dry bed was, exposed for the first time in 146 years, a stump forest - the forgotten legacy of Colonel By whose crew cut down and later flooded these lowland woods about the year 1830. The stumps are still fully anchored by their root systems, on the old floodplain on both sides of the original riverbed, and are only visible when the water is drained from this or other sections of the Rideau River Canal system (5). The high-cut stumps (1-2 m) indicate that the trees were harvested in winter with the use of a muscle-powered crosscut saw. Some of the old stumps were charred but most were brown, smoothly pitted, and beautifully weathered objects shaped by the deluges and decomposers in the depths of the present Rideau Canal. Several large erratic boulders and one section of boulder pavement were exposed, but generally, the surface of the riverbed was covered with clay, clams, aquatic vegetation and gravel.

The exposed, high-cut stumps were cut down to the snow level by the Rideau Canals Branch of Parks Canada to provide safer swimming and boating upstream from the locks in the future. The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority examined 33 of the better-preserved stumps in an effort to learn more about the composition of these ancient floodplain forests, and to compare them with the forest associations presently found in the area. Number of annual rings, stump diameters and species of trees were recorded.

Preliminary investigation shows that the east channel of the Rideau River at Manotick was formerly forested with giant, old-growth hemlock with some white cedar, white elm and birch. (6). These trees were big and would dwarf the present stream-bank vegetation of bur oak, cedar and white pine. Some of these old trees must have towered 30 or more meters high while growing in the rich, moist soil of the original Rideau floodplain. The largest trees were the hemlocks. Some measured 87 cm (34 inches) in diameter and were over 250 years old. The largest hardwoods were 57 cm (22 inches) in diameter, with the oldest being 145 years.

The understory of these magnificent forests was probably as well developed as the tree layer and the thought of what species might have grown there is enough to palpitate the hearts of modern botanists. Ferns, orchids and other moisture-loving plants must have luxuriated in such a damp and shady environment.

It is difficult to imagine such a humid, lush atmosphere having existed at the site of the cornfields and cottages of the present-day Long Island Locks. But exist it did, until canal construction and the pioneer farmers opened up the land. Some of those trees cut down by Colonel By must have started growing on the mud and clay flats of the east channel in the years around 1580; that is before Champlain first viewed and named the river "Rideau" in tribute to the curtain of water he saw falling into the Ottawa River.



Apparently, hemlock (the most common member of the stump forest) was a much more prominent feature of the Rideau lowland vegetation in pre-settlement times than it is today. John McTaggart (Colonel By's Clerk of Works in 1826) described the advantages of camping near Dow's Great Swamp in these words: "the boughs of the hemlock grow more bushy in such places, and are so far more easily obtained to cover the shanty..." (7). We also know that farmers in the Kars area sold hemlock logs and bark to the local leather tanner in the eyars around 1858, indicating that a sufficient local supply of hemlock existed to support the enterprise (8).

We are not aware of any extant examples of these floodplain forests of hemlock, cedar and mixed hardwoods in Eastern Ontario, and certainly there are none of the colossal stature or age of Colonel By's forgotten forest. Indeed, we would be hard pressed to locate many living trees older than 150 years. Today, it is only occasionally that we have the chance to see back in time and remember these Rideau Valley floodplain forests of the past.

1. p.37, Rideau Waterway, R. Leggett, 2nd edition, 1973, U. of T. Press.
2. p.6, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Conservation Report Summary, 1970, (Lt. French, 1783).
3. p.53, Carleton Saga, H. and O. Walker, 1968, Runge Press, Ottawa.
4. p.iii, Historical Atlas of Carleton County, Ontario, H. Belden, 1879.
5. Dow's Lake section of the Canal was drained in 1959 revealing a similar stump forest as photographed by Dr. W.G. Dore in Carleton Saga.
6. Wood samples identified by Dr. C.T. Keith, Eastern Forest Products Laboratory, Ottawa.
7. p.175, Rideau Waterway.
8. p.390, Carleton Saga.

Postscript: With reconstruction completed, the east channel at Long Island was reflooded in early March 1978 and Colonel By's forgotten forest is now submerged again but hopefully, not so forgotten.

Council Report

Peter Hall

This is the first of a new series of regular reports that will be appearing in Trail & Landscape on the activities of the Council of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club. Council meets on the second Monday of every month, except July and August, in order to organize and conduct the business of the club on behalf of its members.

A good deal of Council's attention at the meetings in April, May and June concentrated on preparations for the upcoming centennial year. Several projects are already underway. Council has approved a design from among several submitted by club members for a centennial pin. Work has also begun on the organization of a centennial conference to be held in conjunction with a centennial banquet. Two further projects approved by Council are a reprinting of John Macoun's autobiography, and a record of bird recordings by Monty Brigham. The Centennial Committee of Council will report on a full list of centennial events in an upcoming issue of Trail & Landscape.

The Conservation Committee continues with the all-important work of surveying natural areas in the Ottawa region. The Committee has been meeting with regional government staff to aid in conservation planning.

As part of its chores, Council communicates with other major nature clubs across Canada and around the world. In the May meeting, Council voted to support the Sierra Club in its campaign to save the Lake Louise area of Alberta from development.

Back in April, Council members and members of the Macoun Club enjoyed a field trip to Luskville Falls. The joint outing has now become an annual event.

A number of prominent Council members have resigned recently because they have moved from the Ottawa area or because of other commitments. Marsh Ney, Jo Ann Murray and Jeff Harrison will be missed on Council and it is hoped that others of their calibre can be found to continue their work.

Centennial Report

Look for a timetable of centennial events in the next issue of Trail & Landscape and make your plans to join your fellow naturalists in the celebrations during 1979.

As things are shaping up now we expect to focus our special activities on two weekends, one in late spring and the other in late summer or early fall. The spring weekend will feature the opening of club exhibits at the National Museum, a day of lectures and workshops, the Centennial Banquet, and a number of special outings. The second focal point will be a day of field trips involving a variety of natural history topics followed by a giant club picnic.

The plans underway are intended to provide a mix of thought-provoking, visually enjoyable, and just plain fun activities. We hope that all of you will turn out and thoroughly enjoy yourselves.

Hue MacKenzie

Call for Nominations for OFNC Council

A Nominating Committee has been chosen by the Council to nominate persons for election to offices and membership of the Council for the year 1979, as required by the Constitution. Club members are urged to nominate candidates as officers or other members of the Council. Such nominations require the signatures of the nominator and seconder, and a statement of willingness to serve in the specified position by the nominee. Nominations should be sent to the Nominating Committee, The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, Box 3264, Postal Station C, Ottawa, K1Y 4J5, to arrive no later than November 15, 1978.

The Committee will also consider your suggestions for nominees if you submit them by November 1, 1978. It would be helpful if some relevant background on the proposed candidates were provided along with the names.

Since 1979 is the Club's centennial year, a strong Council is essential. Over the past few years, nominations from the general membership have been very few. This year let's make a special effort to nominate councillors who will serve the Club well in our centennial year of 1979; don't wait - act on it now.

Don't procrastinate - participate!

Chairman, Nominating Committee

OFNC Early Fall Program

arranged by the Excursions and Lectures Committee

For further information call Ellaine Dickson at 722-3050

Times given for outings are departure times; leaders must start promptly. Arrive early to avoid being left behind.

BIRDS IN FALL MIGRATION

The meeting place for all excursions is the Britannia Drive-In Theatre on Carling Avenue in the west end. Please note the different starting times.

Sunday	27 August	7:00 a.m.	Leader:	Bruce Barrett 836-5927
			Assistant:	Paul Jones
Saturday	2 September	7:30 a.m.	Leader:	Stephen Gawn 741-8597
			Assistant:	to be decided
Saturday	16 September	7:30 a.m.	Leader:	Bob Bracken 728-5137
			Assistant:	Tracy Dean
Saturday	23 September	8:00 a.m.	Leader:	Roger Foxall 745-7791
			Assistant:	Michael Bostock
Sunday	1 October	8:00 a.m.	Leader:	Hue MacKenzie 226-1997
			Assistant:	Carol Murray

Sunday KIDS' NATURE RAMBLE AND SCAVENGER HUNT
10 September Leaders: Elisabeth Beaubien (827-3051) and
 Arnet Sheppard
 Meet: NRC parking lot, 100 Sussex Drive
 Time: 9:30 a.m.

Bring your children (age 6-14) and lunches for a colourful day in the Gatineau hills. A morning nature walk in the Kingsmere area will seek signs of wildlife and plantlife preparing for cool days ahead. After lunch - a scavenger hunt amid Mackenzie King's "ruins".

Tuesday	OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
12 September	INTRODUCTION TO OTTAWA MUSHROOMS
	Speaker: Jim Ginns
	Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod
	Time: 8:00 p.m.

Note that there will be a follow-up excursion to look for mushrooms on September 24.

Sunday BUS EXCURSION TO FITZROY PROVINCIAL PARK
17 September Leader: Frank Bell (521-8046)
 Reservations: Phone Ellaine Dickson (722-3050)
 before 10 September
 Cost: \$4 per person or \$8 per family
 Meet: Westgate Shopping Plaza (near corner of
 Carling and Merivale)
 Departure Time: 8:30 a.m.

A social fun outing with a chance to make new friends,
renew old acquaintances and share your interests and know-
ledge in rambles of the area. There will be experienced
help for the inexperienced. Come and join us as we cele-
brate the onset of fall. Bring your picnic lunch. The
bus will arrive back in Ottawa about 4:30 p.m.

Sunday FALL MUSHROOM EXCURSION
24 September Leader: Jim Ginns (827-0212)
 Meet: Supreme Court, Wellington Street
 Time: 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
10 October BIRDING BY RADAR
 Speaker: Hans Blokpoel, Canadian Wildlife Service
 Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural
 Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod
 Time: 8:00 p.m.

With the aid of slides and films, the speaker will show how
radar is used to track and study bird flights and migrations,
to forecast birds' movements and to prevent strikes on air-
craft.

Saturday GENERAL INTEREST WALK WITH THE OTTAWA
21 October RIDEAU TRAIL CLUB
 Contact: Eileen Evans (741-0789) or
 Dorice Joyce (728-8848)
 Meet: West end Shoppers' City near
 Woodroffe Avenue exit
 Time: 9:00 a.m.

A walk is planned from the Narrows on Big Rideau Lake
towards Foley Mountain with a stop for a picnic lunch -
bring your own. Come and join the Rideau Trail Club
members for an excursion in the beautiful Rideau Lakes area.

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